

CLAIMS LISTING

1. (currently amended) An obstetrical imaging system, comprising:

an optical imaging system configured to be mounted on a user's hand with the optical imaging system laterally offset from the user's hand, thereby leaving all of the fingertips of the user's hand free and unencumbered for performing a medical examination or medical procedure, the optical imaging system having smoothly tapered proximal and distal ends for ease of insertion and removal of the ~~miniaturized video camera~~ optical imaging system in a body cavity of a patient;

an illumination subsystem configured to provide light in the visual field of the optical imaging system; and

a display monitor for displaying images from the optical imaging system.

2. (original) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 1, wherein the optical imaging system comprises a miniaturized video camera.

3. (currently amended) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 1, wherein the optical imaging system is mounted on a ring configured to attach the optical imaging system to one or more fingers of the user's hand with the optical imaging system laterally offset from the user's fingers, thereby leaving all of the fingertips of the user's hand free and unencumbered for performing a medical examination or medical procedure.

4. (original) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 1, wherein the optical imaging system is equipped with a panoramic lens for imaging a large portion of the interior of the patient's body cavity.

Cancel claims 5-20.

21. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 1, wherein the optical imaging system comprises a fiber optic imaging system.

22. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 1, wherein the illumination subsystem includes a light source and a fiber optic cable that extends from the light source to the optical imaging system with the fiber optic cable arranged to direct light in front of the optical imaging system.

23. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 22, wherein the illumination subsystem comprises a multiplicity of optical fibers arranged in a crescent pattern that partially encircles the optical imaging system to provide a low profile and for effective illumination that enhances depth perception with the optical imaging system.

24. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 1, wherein the optical imaging system is attached to a surgical glove.

25. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 2, wherein the optical imaging system comprises a wireless transmitter for transmitting image signals from the miniaturized video camera to the display monitor.

26. (New) An obstetrical imaging system, comprising:
an optical imaging system configured to be mounted on a dorsal surface of a user's hand with the optical imaging system offset from the user's hand for insertion of the optical imaging system in a body cavity of a patient alongside the user's hand with all of the fingertips of the user's hand free and unencumbered for performing a medical examination or medical procedure;
and
an illumination subsystem configured to provide light in the visual field of the optical imaging system.

27. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 26, wherein the optical imaging system has proximal and distal ends smoothly tapered toward the dorsal surface of the user's hand for ease of insertion and removal of the optical imaging system in a body cavity of a patient alongside the user's hand.

28. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 26, further comprising a display monitor for displaying images from the optical imaging system.

29. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 26, wherein the optical imaging system comprises a miniaturized video camera.

30. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 1, wherein the optical imaging system comprises a fiber optic imaging system.

31. (New) An obstetrical imaging system, comprising:
an optical imaging system configured to be mounted on a dorsal surface of a user's finger with the optical imaging system offset from the user's finger for insertion of the optical imaging system in a body cavity of a patient alongside the user's finger with the fingertip of the user's finger free and unencumbered for performing a medical examination or medical procedure; and
an illumination subsystem configured to provide light in the visual field of the optical imaging system.

32. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 31, wherein the optical imaging system has proximal and distal ends smoothly tapered toward the dorsal surface of the user's finger for ease of insertion and removal of the optical imaging system in a body cavity of a patient alongside the user's finger.

33. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 31, wherein the optical imaging system is mounted on a ring configured to attach the optical imaging system to the user's finger with the optical imaging system laterally offset from the user's finger, thereby leaving the fingertip of the user's finger free and unencumbered for performing a medical examination or medical procedure.

34. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 31, further comprising a display monitor for displaying images from the optical imaging system.

35. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 31, wherein the optical imaging system comprises a miniaturized video camera.

36. (New) The obstetrical imaging system of claim 31, wherein the optical imaging system comprises a fiber optic imaging system.